

evergreen [3]



story
YUYUKO TAKEMIYA

art
AKIRA CASKABE



evergreen

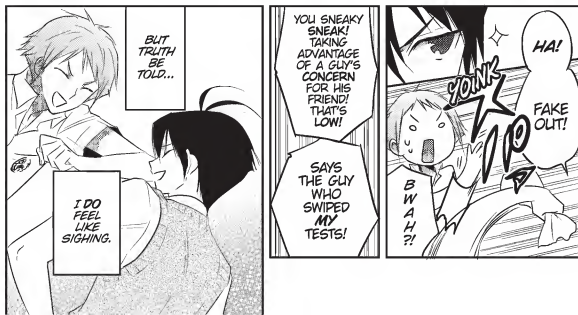




Chapter 11: The Potential to Get Hurt









AFTER
THAT,
SUMMER
VACATION
STARTS.

WE'VE
GOTTEN
OUR TESTS
BACK, AND
TOMOR-
ROW'S
CLOSING
CEREMO-
NIES.

I STILL
HAVEN'T
RECEIVED
ANY WORD
FROM
AWAYA NIKI.

EVEN
AFTER
THE
NOTE...

HOW IS YOUR STUDYING GOING?
ONCE FINALS ARE OVER, IT
WOULD REALLY MAKE ME HAPPY IF
WE COULD TALK FOR A LITTLE.
-YOSHIMATSU



7 18 19

I WON'T
GET ANY
MORE
CHANCES.

TODAY
IS THE
LAST
DAY.

SO
YESTERDAY
AND THE DAY
BEFORE,
I TRIED
STAGING AN
AMBUSH,
BUT SHE
DIDN'T COME.

I STILL
REALLY
WANT
TO TALK
TO HER.



I
JUST...

BUT MY
HEART
CAN'T
TAKE
MUCH
MORE.

AND I
DON'T
WANT
TO
SEEM
LIKE A
CREEP.

I DON'T
WANT
HER
TO THINK
OF ME
AS A
STALKER.



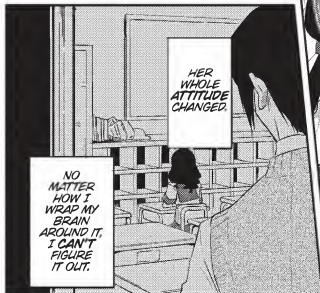


Your Inbox
folder is empty

ONE DAY, OUR
TENTATIVE, BUT
DEFINITELY
THERE CON-
NECTION
JUST...
SNAPPED.

I MEAN,
IT WAS
ALL SO
OUT OF
THE
BLUE.

I JUST
WANT
TO ASK
HER ONE
THING.



HER
WHOLE
ATTITUDE
CHANGED.

NO
MATTER
HOW I
WRAP MY
BRAIN
AROUND IT,
I CAN'T
FIGURE
IT OUT.

"WHY?"



WHAT
ELSE IS
THERE
TO DO?

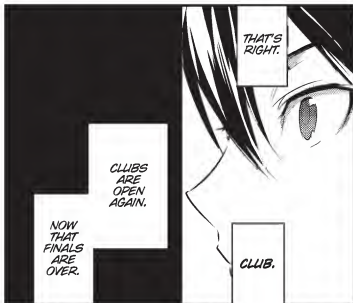
BUT...



WITHOUT
ANY
EXPLA-
NATIONS,
I GET
SHUT
OUT.

OF
COURSE
THAT'S
GOING TO
LEAVE ME
CONFUSED.

AND NO,
I'M NOT
GOING TO
SIT HERE
AND
TAKE IT.

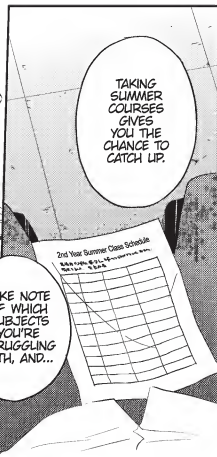






THIS SUCKS!

UGH,
STUCK
TAKING
SUMMER
CLASS.



TAKING
SUMMER
COURSES
GIVES
YOU THE
CHANCE TO
CATCH UP.

TAKE NOTE
OF WHICH
SUBJECTS
YOU'RE
STRUGGLING
WITH, AND...

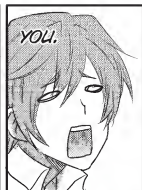


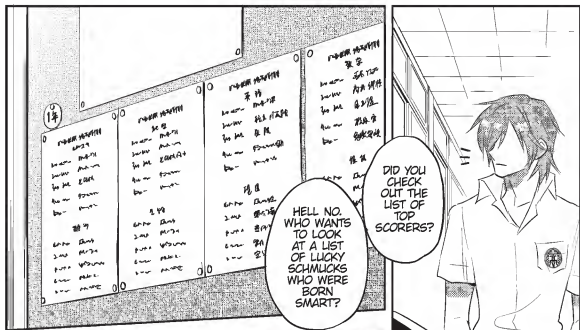
I KNOW
THIS WILL BE
TOUGH ON
THOSE OF YOU
WHO HAVE
BUSY SUMMER
CLUB
SCHEDULES...

BUT BY
NEGLECTING
YOUR
STUDIES, YOU
SERIOUSLY
RISK...









Final Examination Top Scorers Geography		Final Examination Top Scorers Science	
1st 100pts	1-C Hidachi On	1-C Hidachi On	
2nd 98pts	1-A Machida Shinobu	1-D Miyauchi Sh	
3rd 95pts	1-C Ota Kazuhiko	1-C Kuta Ryo	
	1-E Yoshida Rui	1-E Shinnin	
		1-D Tsugawa	

WHOA.





Examination Top Scorers Geography	
100pts	1-C Hidachi On
96pts	Machida Shi
95pts	Kazuhiko

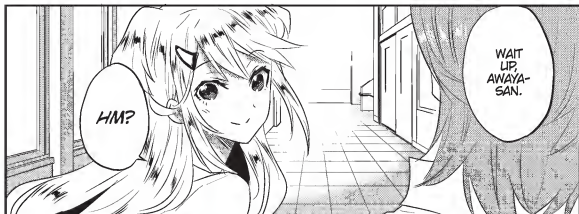


SEE
YA
LATER!



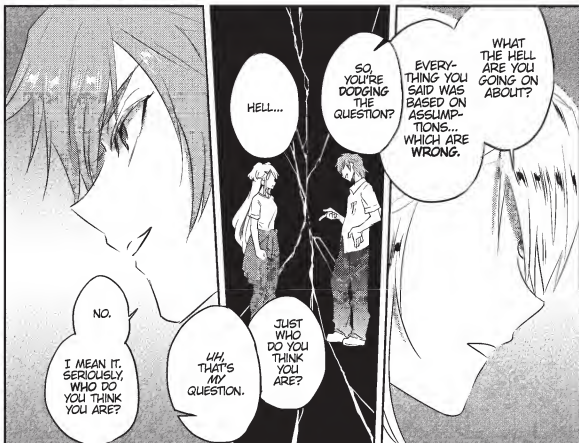
UHH...
SOGA-
KUN,
WAS IT?

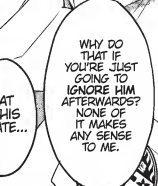
LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE
STUCK IN
SUMMER CLASS
TOGETHER.
EH? GOOD TO
HAVE YA!



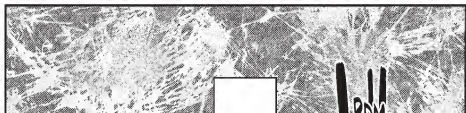












WHAT
THE
HECK?!

BDMP



BDMP



I HAVE
TO
RUN
AWAY.

BDMP



I NEED
TO DIVE
INTO
THAT COLD
WATER
AND HIDE.

BDMP

GET TO
THE
POOL.



WHAT
WAS
WITH
HIM?!

BDMP

BDMP

WHAT'S
WITH
ANY OF
THIS?!



"WHO
DO YOU
THINK
YOU
ARE?"



WHAT
GIVES
YOU THE
RIGHT
TO SAY
CRAP
ABOUT
ME?

SERI-
OUSLY.

NO,
WHO DO
YOU
THINK
YOU
ARE?



I
JUST...



BUT...

IT'S NOT
LIKE
THERE'S
ANYTHING
ELSE I
CAN DO.

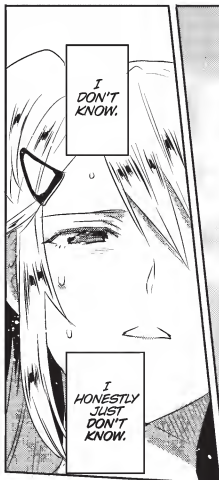
I MEAN,
I DON'T
GET ANY
OF THIS
MYSELF,
EITHER!



"NONE
OF IT
MAKES
ANY
SENSE
TO ME.
"
AT
THIS
RATE...

I
KNOW!

"ALL
YOU'RE
DOING
IS
HURTING
HIM."



I
DON'T
KNOW.

I
HONESTLY
JUST
DON'T
KNOW.



BUT...

WHAT IS
IT I'M
RUNNING
FROM?



I'M JUST...
CHICKENING
OUT.

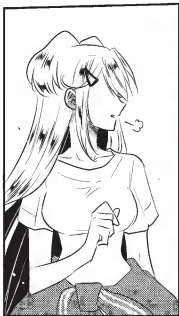
THAT'S
ALL.

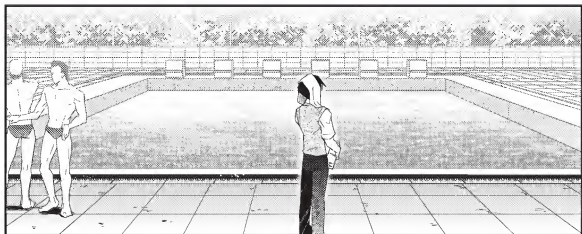


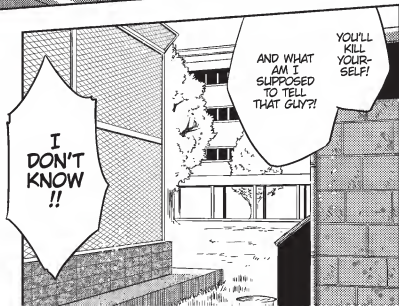
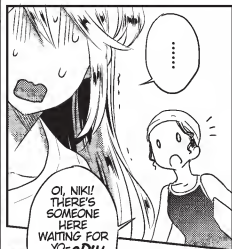
IF I DON'T,
SOMETHING
INSIDE ME
MIGHT
BREAK.

I
MEAN
IT.

I
HAVE
TO
RUN...









OH
CRAP.

OH
CRAP.

OH
CRAP!

OH
CRAP!!

WHAT IS
HOTAKA
DOING?!

WHY
DOES HE
KEEP
CHASING
AFTER
ME?!



OH
OKAY,
I
KNOW!

BUT I KEEP
AVOIDING
HIM. THAT
HAS TO
HAVE HIM
CONFUSED.

HE'S
SENT ME
MESSAGES
SAYING HE
WANTS
TO TALK.

"AT THIS
RATE, ALL
YOU'RE
DOING IS
HURTING
HIM."

"WHY DO
THAT IF
YOU'RE
JUST GOING
TO IGNORE
HIM AFTER-
WARDS?
NONE OF
IT MAKES
ANY SENSE
TO ME."

ESPE-
CIALY IN
THIS
HEAT.

SHOULD
SHE
REALLY BE
RUNNING
THAT
FAST?

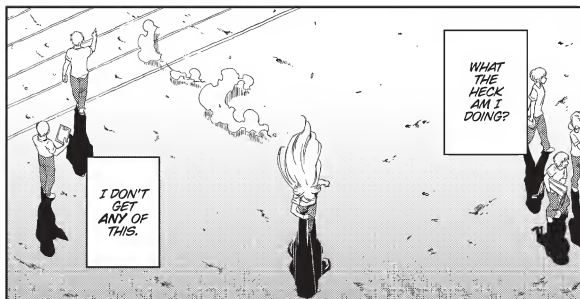
ANYONE
WOULD
FEEL HURT
WHEN THEIR
FRIEND
SUDDENLY
STARTED TO
AVOID THEM.

HE'S
RIGHT.
I'M
HURTING
HIM.

OF
COURSE,
I AM.

SO
THEN...

WHAT'S
WITH
ME?





BECAUSE I
~~WANT TO~~
HOTAKA.

BUT HERE
I COME,
BARGING
IN AND
TRAMPLING
ALL OVER
THAT...

HOTAKA
COULD LIKE
HANGING
OUT WITH
THAT OTHER
GIRL MORE
THAN ME.

I
MEAN...



I'M AFRAID THAT,
IF I REALLY DO
COME TO
~~WANT TO~~
HIM TOO MUCH,
SOMEDAY I
COULD GET HURT.
HE COULD GET HURT.
SOMEONE COULD
GET HURT.

THAT'S WHY
I'M RUNNING
AWAY
FROM HIM.

HAVING
THAT
UNREQUITED
WOULD
HURT.



WAIT...

WHAT'S
~~GOING ON~~
GUTH?



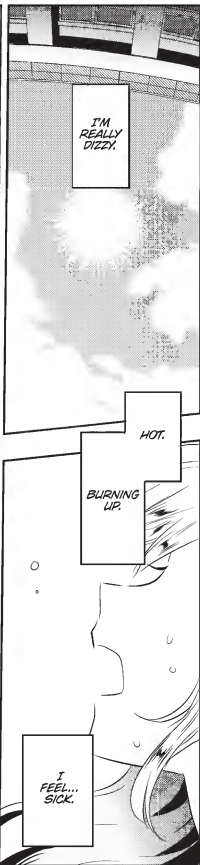
AH,
FORGET
IT.





*I'M
SCARED.*

*SOMEBODY
HELP ME!*



*I'M
REALLY
DIZZY.*

HOT.

*BURNING
UP.*

*I
FEEL...
SICK.*



NIKI!!!

SPLASH

HN...

しゃ



OVER
HERE!
I
FOUND
HER!!

YAMMER

YAMMER



YAMMER

HOTAKA?

HEAT
STROKE
?

SOMEONE
BRING
SOME
WATER!

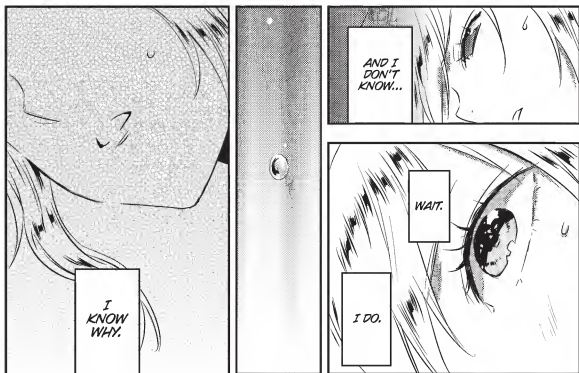


DON'T WORRY.
YOU'LL BE
OKAY. THEY'RE
BRINGING A
STRETCHER
RIGHT NOW.

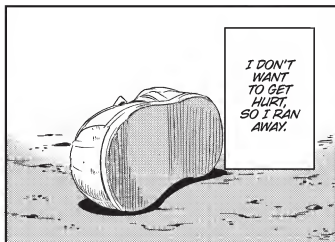
I'M SO
SORRY.

I'M SORRY.
THIS IS MY
FAULT FOR
CHASING
YOU
AROUND
EVERY-
WHERE.





BECAUSE
I
~~SAID~~
HIM.



I DON'T
WANT
TO GET
HURT,
SO I RAN
AWAY.



~~SAID~~
HIM...

MEANS
I COULD
GET
HURT.



BUT BY
RUNNING
AWAY...

I HURT
HIM
INSTEAD.



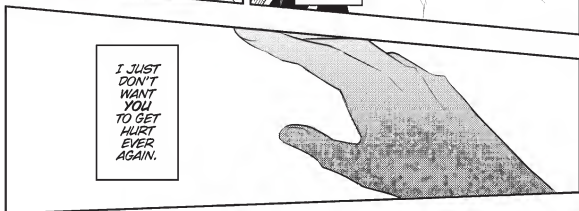
I DON'T
CARE
WHAT
HAPPENS
TO ME.

YOU
CAN
HURT
ME IF
YOU
WANT.

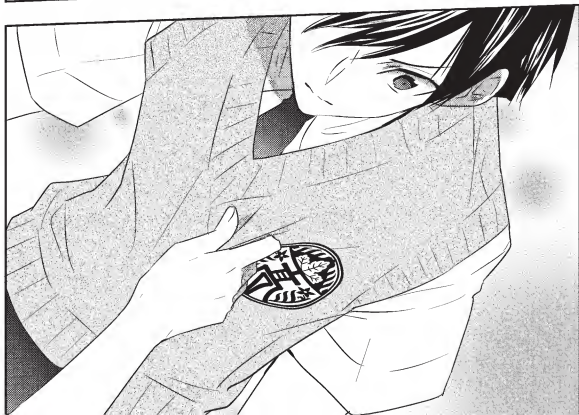


I'M
SORRY.

I'M
SO
SORRY.



I JUST
DON'T
WANT
YOU
TO GET
HURT
EVER
AGAIN.

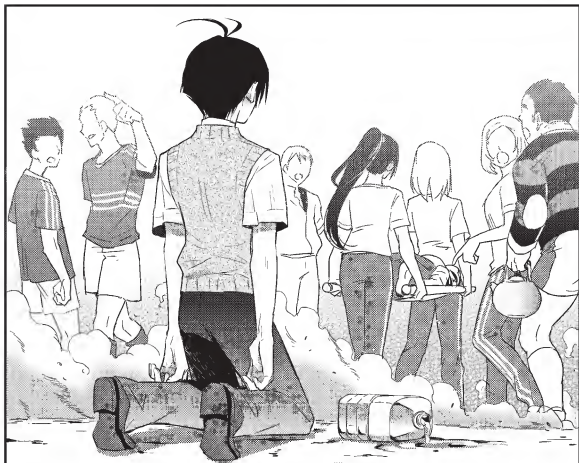
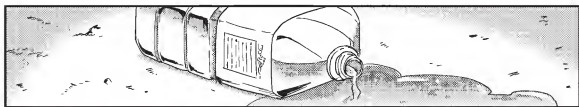




I'M IN
LOVE
WITH
YOU.

HOTAKA...

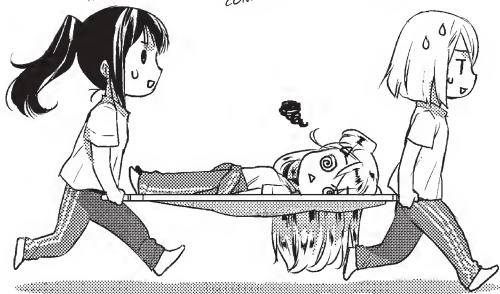


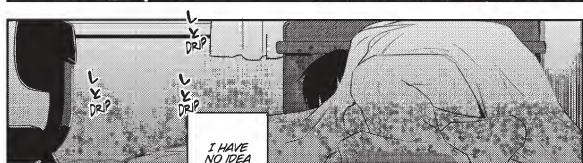


NOPE, NADA!
DIDNT HEAR A
THING! WERE
GOOD AND
DISCREET
NURSES
ASSISTANTS.

CONFESSION?
WHAT
CONFESSION?

WE'RE GOOD
NURSES
ASSISTANTS.





NOT
EVEN
HOW I
GOT
HOME.

HAPPENED
THE REST
OF THAT
DAY...



IN THAT
ONE
GLORIOUS
MOMENT
YOU STOLE
MY HEART,
MY EVERY-
THING, FOR
YOURSELF.

PLEASE
GIVE IT
BACK.

GIVE
IT
BACK.

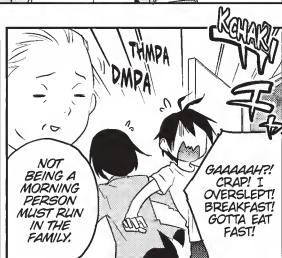
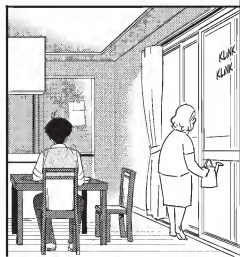
"HOTAKA..."

"I'M
IN LOVE
WITH
YOU."

FLOP!



Chapter 12: New Love





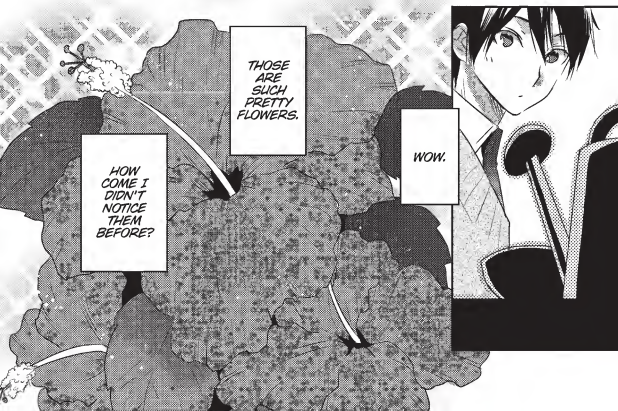
AIEE!!
MY COAT!!



ARGH!
I DON'T
HAVE
TIME FOR
THIS!

SIGH.
ANOTHER
FRANTIC
MORNING.

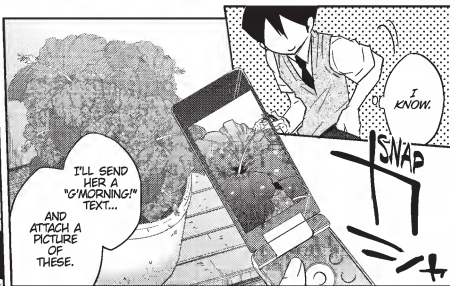
WAIT RIGHT
THERE,
HONEY.
I'LL GET A
TOWEL.



THOSE
ARE
SUCH
PRETTY
FLOWERS.

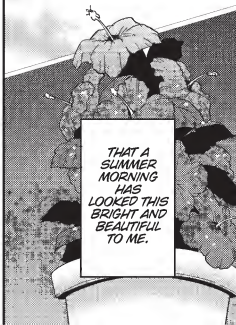
HOW
COME I
DIDN'T
NOTICE
THEM
BEFORE?

WOW.





THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME IN
MY
WHOLE
LIFE...



THAT A
SUMMER
MORNING
HAS
LOOKED THIS
BRIGHT AND
BEAUTIFUL
TO ME.



IT'S THE
SAME THING
EVERY DAY!
NO WONDER
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
SO LATE!!

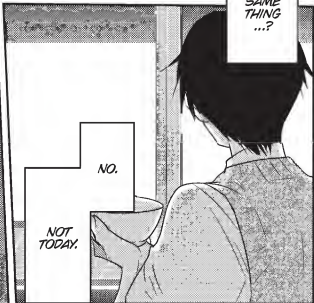
YES,
MOM.

AND
THEN TAKE
FOREVER TO
GET READY,
PLAYING
WITH YOUR
CELL PHONE
THE WHOLE
TIME!

GOODNESS!
WHY IS IT
THAT EVERY
MORNING
YOU HAVE TO
GET UP AT
THE LAST
MINUTE...

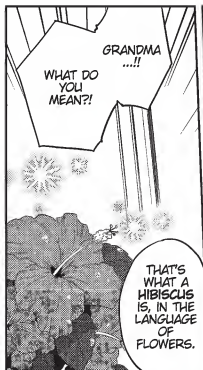


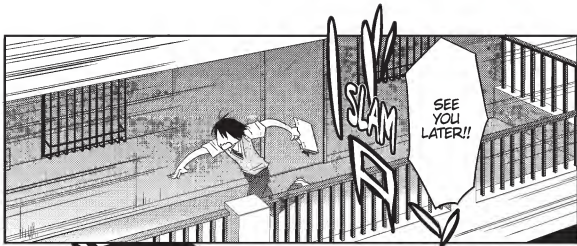
THE
SAME
THING
...?

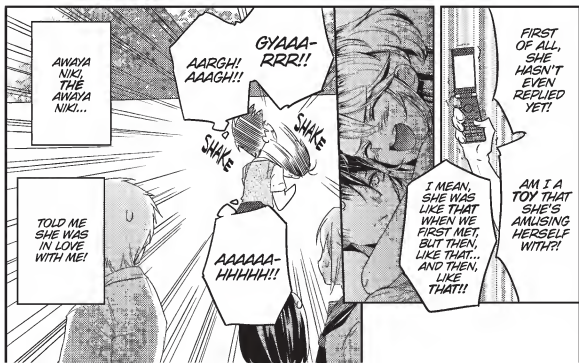


NO.

NOT
TODAY.









I...
I MUST'VE
MISHEARD
IT. I GOT
IT ALL
WRONG.

THERE'S
NO WAY A
SKINNY,
GLOOMY,
SICKLY
HEAD OF
A DUMB
MANGA
CLUB
COULD...

CAPTAAAAIN!!



THE ONE
THING I
NEVER EVEN
DARED
DREAM OF!



THAT'S
RIGHT.
IT'S TOO
GOOD
TO BE
TRUE.

WAIT.



NOT ONLY THAT!
THEY'D TAKEN OFF
DUST JACKETS!
NO PROGRESS
WAS MADE IN
CATALOGUING OUR
PAST ISSUES! OUR
ADVISOR IS GOING
TO LOOK AT OUR
UTTER *INABILITY*
TO GET ANYTHING
DONE AND SHAKE
HIS HEAD IN
MISERY!!

YOU KNOW
NO ONE EVER
BOTHERS TO
PUT BACK WHAT
THEY READ!
WELL, YESTERDAY
WAS THE
WORST!! MANGA
SCATTERED
EVERYWHERE!!

YOU REALIZE
THAT LEFT ME
ALL ALONE!
RE-SHELVING
ALL THAT
MANGA *BY*
MYSELF!!
RIGHT?!

HOW COULD
YOU?!
WHATEVER
POSSESSED
YOU TO
JUST UP
AND LEAVE
EARLY
YESTERDAY
?!

THREE HOURS,
CAPTAIN!
YOU LEFT ME TO
SIT *THERE* IN
SOLITUDE FOR
THREE SOLID
HOURS, BELIEVING
THAT YOU WOULD
COME BACK TO
HELP OUT!

BUT
!!

YOU
NEVER
DID!!

A THREE-
HOUR HOLE
OF *EMPTI-
NESS* LEFT
IN A POOR,
INNOCENT,
FIRST YEAR'S
HEART?!

TELL ME!
WHAT
KIND OF
REPAYMENT
PLAN
ARE YOU
PONDER-
ING?!

WHAT DO
YOU HAVE
TO SAY FOR
YOURSELF?!
HOW DO YOU
INTEND TO
GIVE BACK
THREE HOURS
LOST TO
CHAOS?!

UHK
...!











I HAVE BEEN
FEELING THE
AIRA OF
PRECISELY
THAT "SOME-
THING BAD"
STANCE FOR
SOME
TIME NOW.

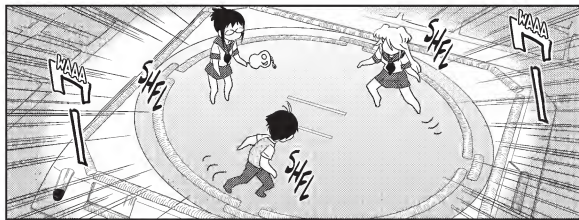


HRMM...
THAT'S
STRANGE.

IT SEEMS
TO BE
COMING
FROM THAT
DIREC-
TION...



Extra Bad





THE CAPTAIN
HAD BEEN
LEFT IN
TEARS
BECAUSE
HE WAS
BEING
IGNORED...



BUT HE
SHOWED A
"GOOD"
POSTURE
JUST NOW.

14-0

AWAYA

YOSHI-
MATSU

0-14

NOW,
WE'RE
STUCK
IN THIS
ROUND OF
INVISI-
BLE
SUMO.



WHAT ON
EARTH IS
GOING
ON?!



TWITCH
ツツツ

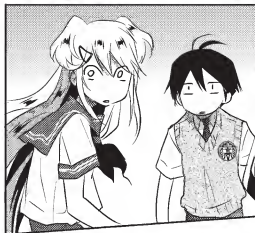
GLANCE
ツツツ



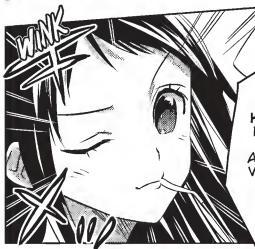
WHOA!

WHY IS
SHE
SUDDENLY
GLARING
AT ME?!





WHY HELLO
THERE!
WITH ALL THE
FUSS AND
BOTTER, IT
SEEMS I
HAVEN'T HAD
THE CHANCE
TO INTRO-
DUCE
MYSELF!!



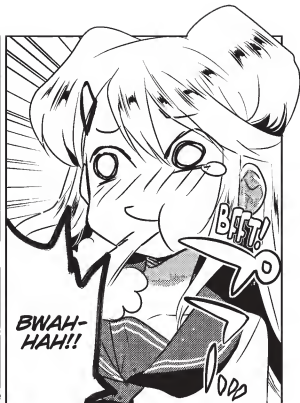
I'M
HITACHI ON!
FIRST YEAR
STUDENT
AND HUMBLE
VICE-CAPTAIN
OF THE
MANGA
CLUB!!

*Sassy Junior
Onchi*



I'M
JUST
A
HARM-
LESS
FIRST
YEAR...

A MERE
KOHAI
TO HIM,
NOTHING
MORE,
NOTHING
AT
ALL...







OH GOD,
MY HEART
FEELS
LIKE IT'S
GOING
TO POP.

SAY
SOME-
THING.
PLEASE
SAY
SOME-
THING!



BDMP

BDMP

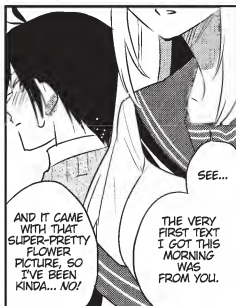
BDMP

BDMP



THANKS.
THAT
FLOWER
WAS
REALLY
PRETTY.

UM...



AND IT CAME
WITH THAT
SUPER-PRETTY
FLOWER
PICTURE, SO
I'VE BEEN
KINDA... NO!

SEE...

THE VERY
FIRST TEXT
I GOT THIS
MORNING
WAS
FROM YOU.



OH.

I WAS
TRYING TO
THINK UP A
REPLY WHEN
I SAW YOU
WALKING
THIS WAY.

SO,
UM...

I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T
SEND YOU
ANYTHING
YET.

'SOKAY.

S-
SURE.







HOW DID THAT JUST SLIP OUT!

GYAAH!!



BECAUSE I'VE HAD A CRUSH ON YOU SINCE FOREVER!!



DOESN'T IT BASICALLY MEAN...

THIS WHOLE SITUATION.

WAIT A MINUTE...



WAIT...

NOW WHAT DO WE DO?! WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?!

DON'T ASK ME! I HAVE NO CLUE!

THAT OUR FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER...

ARE MUTUAL?



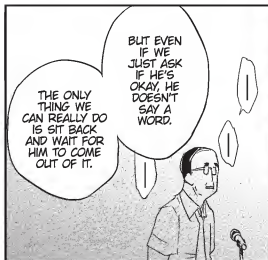




THERE!!
SO
HA!!











WHAT IN THE WORLD COULD FORCE YOU INTO RECLUSE MODE?

ON-CHAN IS A SWEET GIRL.

SHE IS NICE AND WONDERFUL, AND VERY MUCH HAS A CRUSH ON YOU.

SOGA...

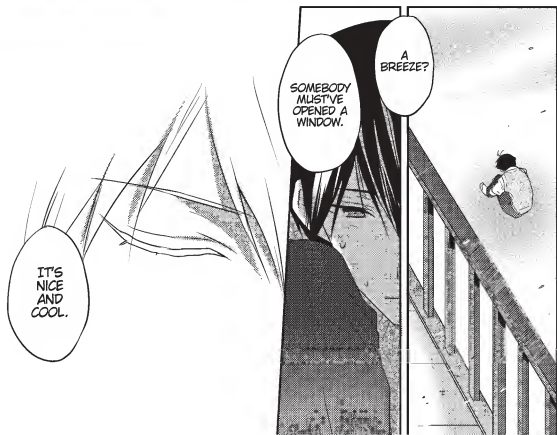
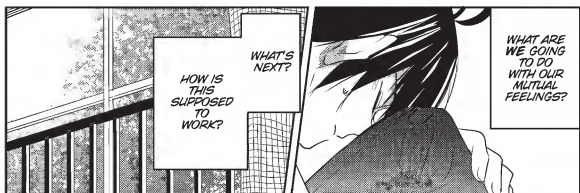
SITTING IN THIS STIFLING HEAT AND LISTENING TO THE PRINCIPAL DRONE ON.

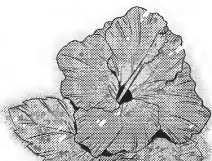
YOU SHOULD REFLECT SERIOUSLY ON WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND HOW TO BEHAVE THIS ENTIRE SUMMER SEASON.

SOME-WHERE AROUND HERE, I'M SURE.

WHERE'S AWAYA-SAN?

IN OTHER WORDS, IT TEACHES YOU THE IMPORTANT LESSON OF SETTING PERSONAL GOALS FOR YOURSELF EVERY DAY.







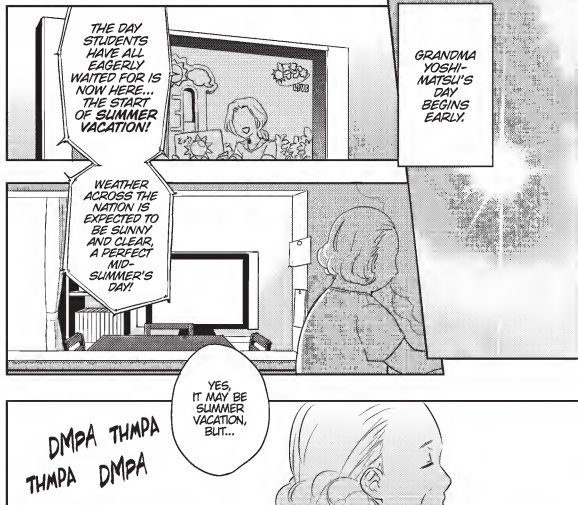


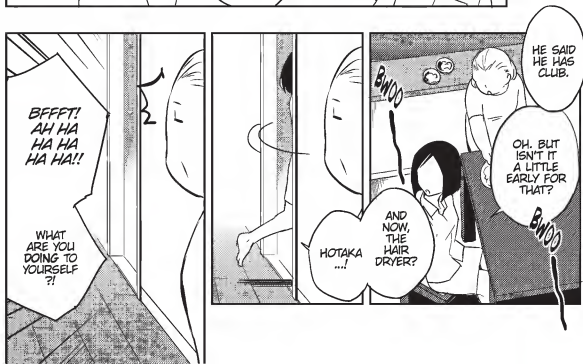
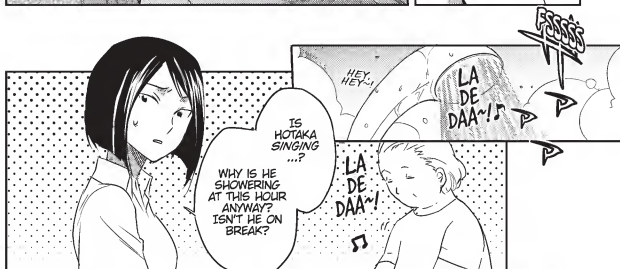
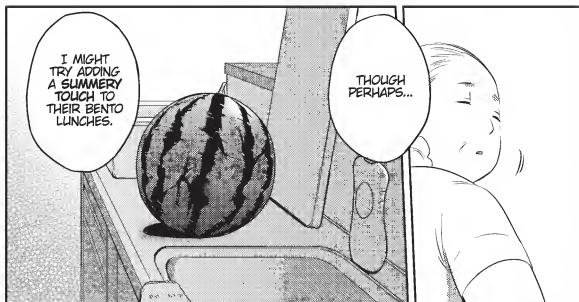
NEW
CELLPHONE
WALLPAPER!

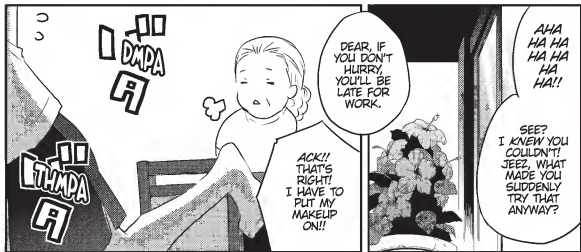
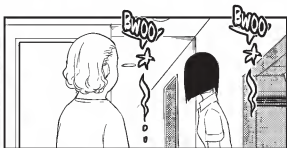
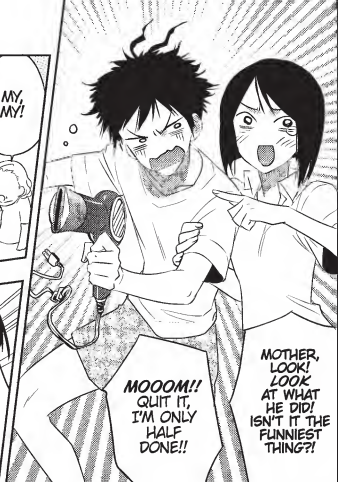


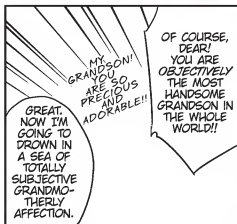
Chapter 13: Sun & Rain

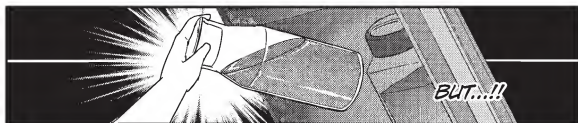


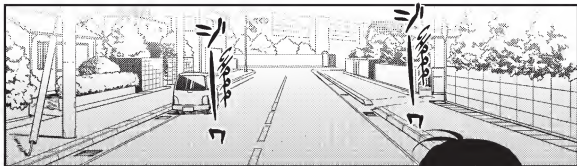












WE'VE FOUND OUT THAT OUR FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER ARE MUTUAL!

SHE AGREED TO HANG OUT FOR A BIT BEFORE CLUB STARTS.

TK
MESSAGES

AWAYA NIKI
Summer Class Sucks

I'd love to talk, too! How about I leave a little early for class and stop by on the way?

It'll make it look like I can't wait to study!

CONFIRM NEXT

TK

WONDER HOW LONG TILL SHE GETS HERE?

NIKI-CHAN?

SHOULD I USE...

NIKI-SAN?

LOWLY COMMONERS.

THAT... ACTUALLY KINDA FITS.

BUT NO.

OHO HO HO!

NIKI-SAMA?

AWAYA-SAN

THAT SOUNDS KINDA STIFF AND TOO FORMAL.

BUT...

NOW I'M STUCK WITH A PROBLEM. WHAT AM I GOING TO CALL HER?

Gulp!





I GUESS
YOU MUST
LIVE
PRETTY
FAR,
N-NIKI.



IT'S NOT
CLOSE,
THAT'S
FOR
SURE.



THEY MADE
AN EXCEPTION
AND LET ME
HAVE A LICENSE
BECAUSE
OTHERWISE,
I COULDN'T GET
TO SUMMER
CLASSES AND
CLUB.

WHEW!

OH.

I,
UH...



BUT
COMING
HERE LET
ME MEET
YOU,
HOTAKA.

SO I'M
GLAD
I DID.



O-OH.
M-ME
TOO.



WHEN I
TOOK THE
ENTRANCE
EXAM FOR
THIS SCHOOL,
I DIDN'T
SERIOUSLY
EXPECT I'D
PASS IT.

MY
ADVISOR
SUGGESTED
IT, SO I
GAVE IT
A SHOT,
THAT'S
ALL.

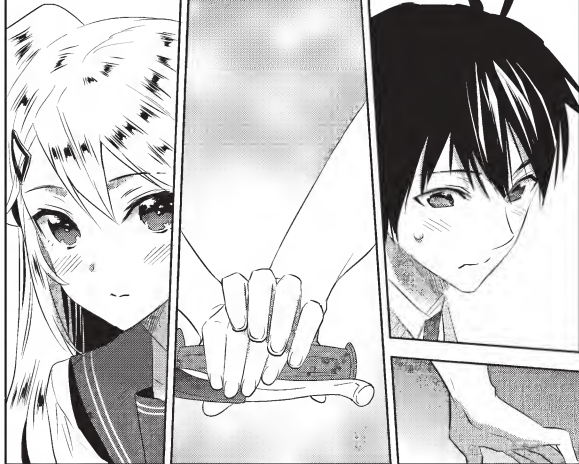
ROLL

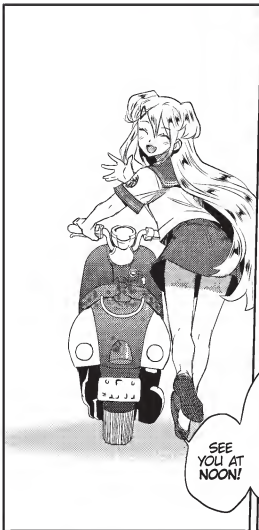
HEH
HEH

AS A
RESULT,
I'M ALWAYS
SO FAR
BEHIND, I'M
A REGULAR
AT MAKE-UP
CLASSES.

YEP.

BUT
YOU DID
WIND UP
PASSING.





SEE
YOU AT
NOON!

GREAT!
COME
BY THE
POOL,
THEN.

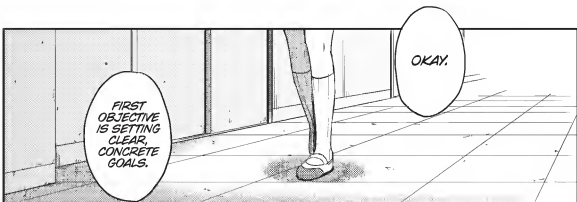


WILL
YOU BE
AROUND
FOR
LUNCH?
MAYBE WE
CAN EAT
TOGETHER.

!

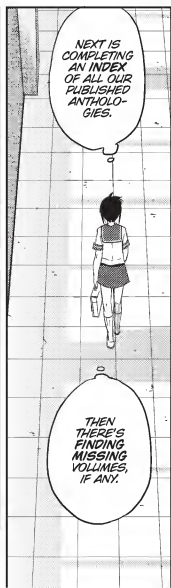
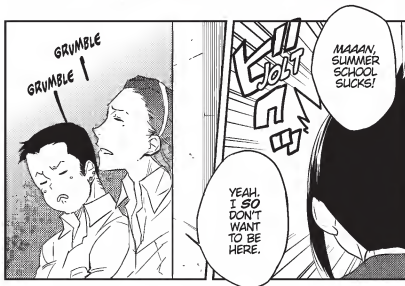


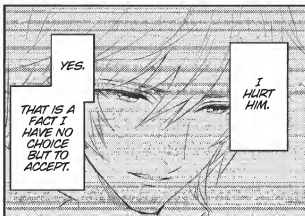
SURE!



FIRST
OBJECTIVE
IS SETTING
CLEAR,
CONCRETE
GOALS.

OKAY.







THAT MEANS
A FULL
CHANGE OF
BOTH
THOUGHTS
AND
BEHAVIOR IS
REQUIRED.

SHOOP
TH



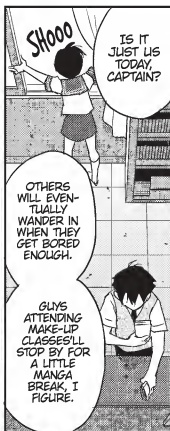
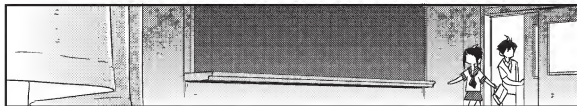
THERE,
THIS IS
FOR THE
BEST.



THAT'S
REALLY
ALL I
CAN DO.

I WILL
ACT LIKE I
NORMALLY
DO
AROUND
HIM.

I WILL GO
BACK TO
TALKING
WITH SOGA-
SEMPAI
LIKE I
USED TO.





I'VE DONE
A FULL
EMOTION-
REFRESH.
I'LL BE ABLE
TO INTERACT
WITH HIM
NORMALLY.

OF
COURSE
I WILL,
CAPTAIN!



I
SEE.

PLUS, HE
SAID HE'S
GOING TO
COME HANG
OUT WITH
FISH TODAY,
SO HE'LL
PROBABLY
COME BY
LATER.
FAIR
WARN-
ING.



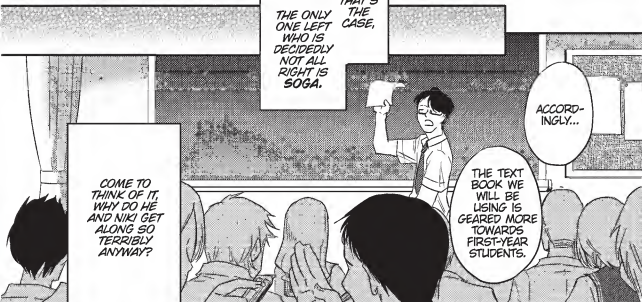
WELL?
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'LL
BE
OKAY?



IF SHE'S
THAT
CHEERFUL
ABOUT IT,
SHE
SHOULD
BE OKAY.

YEAH.

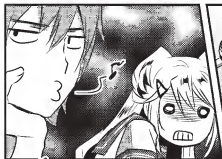
AND IF
THAT'S
THE
CASE,
THE ONLY
ONE LEFT
WHO IS
DECIDEDLY
NOT ALL
RIGHT IS
SOGA.

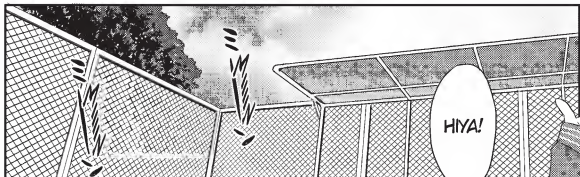


COME TO
THINK OF IT,
WHY DO HE
AND NIKI GET
ALONG SO
TERRIBLY
ANYWAY?

ACCORD-
INGLY...

THE TEXT
BOOK WE
WILL BE
USING IS
GEARED MORE
TOWARDS
FIRST-YEAR
STUDENTS.







AW!
BUT IT'S
SO NICE
OUT
HERE!

THE
POWER
OF LOVE
MUST BE
STRONG,
INDEED!
HAVE
FUN!

I'M
SHOCKED
YOU'RE
EVEN CON-
SIDERING
GOING OUT
INTO THAT
SUN-FRIED
EXPANSE!

**GYAA-
AAH!!**

I TRIED.
WHEN
I SAID I
WAS GOING
TO EAT
LUNCH
WITH YOU...

SHE
WAS
ALL...

IF I SOAK
IN THE EVIL
DAY-STAR'S
RAYS,
MY COLD
SORES
WOULD ACT
UP FOR SURE!

SEE?



CHRR
CHRR

WELL...
YEAH, IT
IS HOT
OUT.

ARE
YOU
HOT?

M



BUT
THE POOL
LOOKS SO
PRETTY
AND
SPARKLY.

YEAH.

IT
DOES.



I LIKE
LOOKING
AT THE
WATER AND
WATCHING
PEOPLE
SWIM.

THAT'S
RIGHT.
YOU DON'T
REALLY LIKE
POOLS,
DO YOU?

OH!

I JUST
CAN'T SWIM
WORTH A
DAMN
MYSELF.





IT GOT
SO BAD,
EVERYONE
THOUGHT IT
WAS THE
END OF
THE ROAD
FOR ME.

WHEN I
WAS IN
PRE-
SCHOOL....

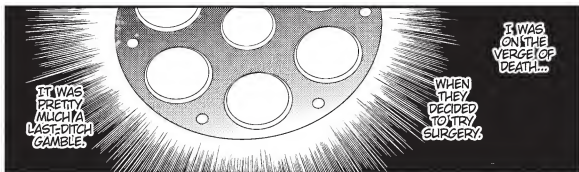


I WAS
BORN WITH
A HEART
CONDITION,
AND WAS
REALLY
SICKLY WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE.



OH, THAT?
IT'S A
SURGERY
SCAR.

I...
DON'T
REALLY
LIKE
SHOWING
IT OFF.



IT WAS
PRETTY
MUCH A
LAST-DITCH
GAMBLE.

WHEN
THEY
DECIDED
TO TRY
SURGERY.

I WAS
ON THE
VERGE OF
DEATH...



BUT
IT FIXED
YOU?



YOU
GAMBLED
AND
WON,
HOTAKA.

IT'S
LIKE YOU
WENT INTO
BATTLE
AND
SURVIVED!

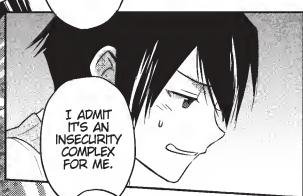
THAT'S
AWESOME.



SORTA.

I CAN
LIVE LIFE
NORMALLY,
SO I'M GLAD
THEY DID IT,
YEAH.

IT'S JUST,
WELL....
IT LEFT ME
WITH THAT
UGLY
SCAR.



I ADMIT
IT'S AN
INSECURITY
COMPLEX
FOR ME.

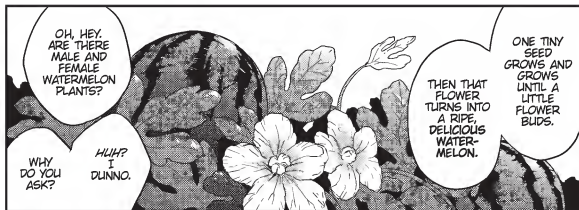


I
THINK
IT'S
COOL.









OH, HEY,
ARE THERE
MALE AND
FEMALE
WATERMELON
PLANTS?

WHY
DO YOU
ASK?

HUH?
I
DUNNO.

THEN THAT
FLOWER
TURNS INTO
A RIPE,
DELICIOUS
WATER-
MELON.

ONE TINY
SEED
GROWS AND
GROWS
UNTIL A
LITTLE
FLOWER
BUDS.



FROM
SPROUT
TO FLOWER
TO FRUIT.
THEN BACK
TO A SEED
AGAIN.

'CUZ IT'S
AMAZING
HOW IT ALL
STARTS AND
ENDS WITH
THAT ONE
SEED.



HN?

NOW I'M
REALLY
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO SEEING
ONE
SPROUT...

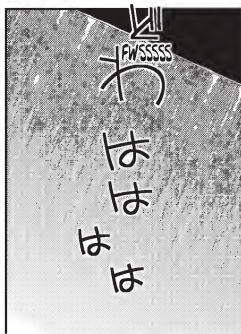
OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!
MAYBE I
SHOULD
COME AND
WATER
THEM.

DON'T
FORGET
WATER.

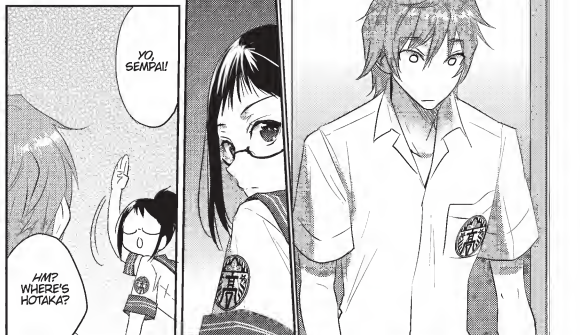
IT NEEDS
ENOUGH
RAIN AND
WATER OR
IT WON'T
GROW.

ISN'T IT
AWESOME
?

SUN-
POWER IS
PRETTY
AMAZING.









STOP IT.

DON'T LOOK AT THAT.





MAYBE IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU NEVER
REALLY
TRIED TO
SEE?



I'M NOT IN
LOVE WITH
THE CAPTAIN.
I'VE NEVER
BEEN.
WHY CAN'T
YOU SEE
THAT?



YOU DON'T
REALLY
UNDERSTAND
A THING,
DO YOU,
SEMPAI?



IS IT
BECAUSE I'M
JUST SO
WAY OFF
YOUR
STANDARDS?

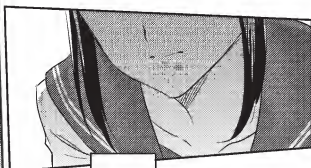
IS THAT
WHAT
YOU'RE
TRYING TO
TELL ME?

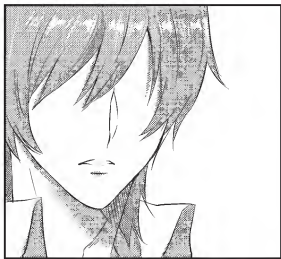
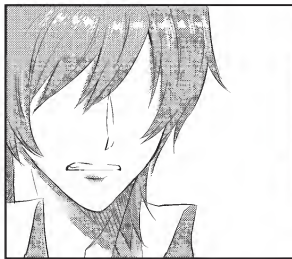
BUT WHY
HAVEN'T
YOU
TRIED,
SEMPAI?

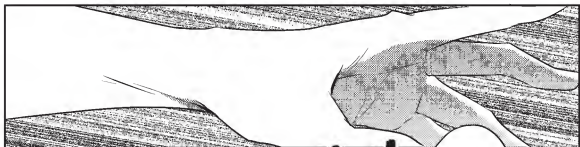


I GET IT.
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
RUB MY
FACE IN IT
EVERY TIME.
THANK YOU.

IN THAT
CASE,
I UNDER-
STAND.

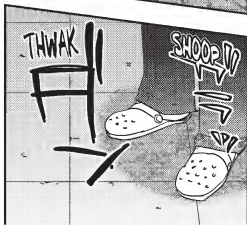
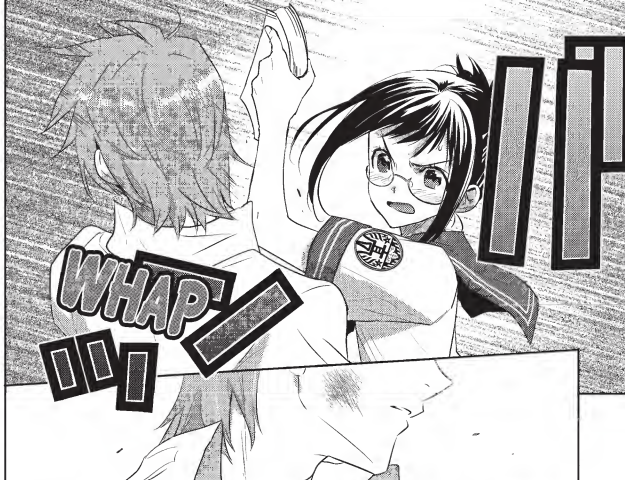






SO,
YOU LIKE
ME, EH?
THAT
MEANS...

YOU WANT
TO DO
THIS KIND
OF STUFF
WITH ME,
RIGHT?



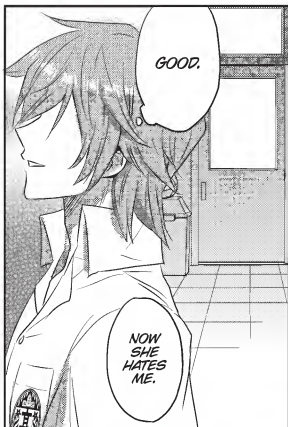


IF I GET
HER TO
HATE ME
NOW...

THEN I
DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY
ABOUT
HURTING
HER IN
THE END.



AND I
WON'T BE
A DISAP-
POINTMENT.



GOOD.

NOW
SHE
HATES
ME.



...?
?





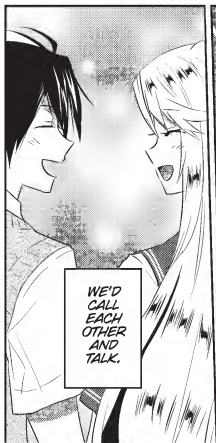
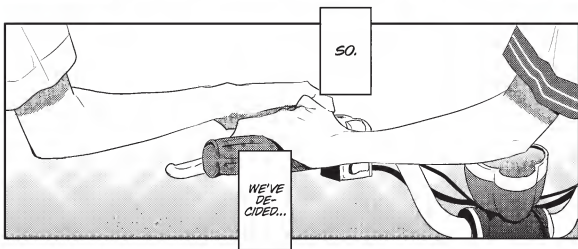
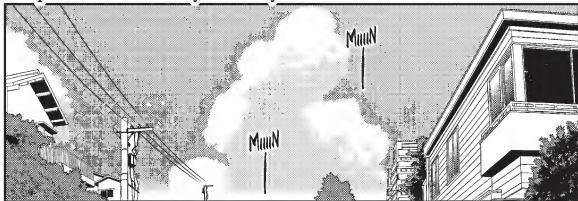
HATE
HIM?
NO, I
DON'T
HATE
HIM.



THAT
JUST
PLAIN
HURT.



Chapter 14: Like a Key in a Keyhole





I HEARD
THIS WEIRD
"SNICKING"
NOISE FROM
HER SIDE
OF THE
PHONE.



WHILE
WE
WERE
TALKING
...



SHOO

I HAD
NO IDEA
WHAT IT
WAS.



AT
FIRST,
I WAS
LIKE...

"WHAT
THE
HECK?"



IT
TURNS
OUT...

NIKI WAS
CLIPPING
HER
TOENAILS
WHILE
TALKING
TO ME.



WHAT
THE
HECK?!

HE
LOOKS
LIKE A
CRAZED
ANIMAL.



BUT
THEN...

I GOT A
MENTAL
IMAGE
OF WHAT
SHE
MUST
LOOK
LIKE.
AND I
HAD A
SUDDEN,
UH,
"REACTION."



GOOD
MORNING,
CAPTAIN!

TOTALLY
EMBARRASSED,
MY FACE GOT
REALLY HOT
REALLY FAST,
AND SPEAKING
STRAIGHT WAS
SUDDENLY A
CHALLENGE.

SHOOP
ガラッ

Chapter 14: Like a Key in a Keyhole





THE
LAST OF
KOCHI
TSURU IS
COVERED.

THERE!



PLEASE
MAKE A
LIST OF
THOSE,
WOULD
YOU?

NOT THAT
WE HAVE A
BUDGET TO
REPLACE
THE
MISSING
ONES.

IT'S KINDA
FUNNY TO
SEE WHICH
VOLUMES
ARE MISSING
AND WHICH
WE HAVE
DUPLICATES
OF.

HUP!

WHEW!
WE'VE FINALLY
CRESTED THE
TOP OF THE
MOUNTAIN.
GOOD WORK,
CAPTAIN.



THAT
WAS SOME
SERIOUS
RAIN,
THOUGH.

WE
WERE
AFRAID
THEY'D
SHUT
DOWN THE
TRAINS.

I'M
GLAD IT
ENDED AS
QUICKLY
AS
IT DID.

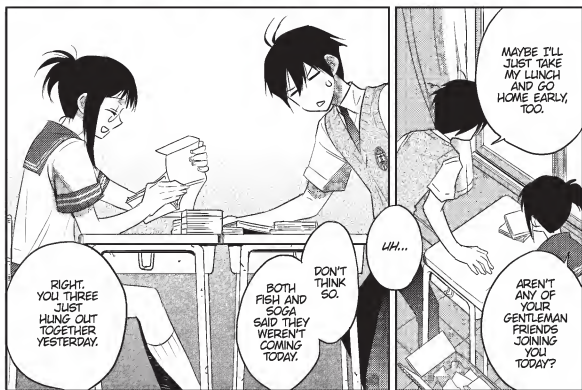
AFTER YOU
TEXTED ME
THAT YOU'D
LEFT, I MET UP
WITH FISH AND
THE OTHERS,
AND WE WENT
TO TOWN.

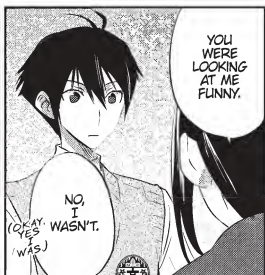
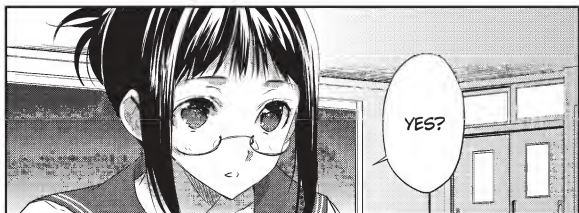
HN?
THAT'S
OKAY.

I'M SORRY
I LEFT SO
SUDDENLY
AFTER
LUNCH
YESTERDAY.

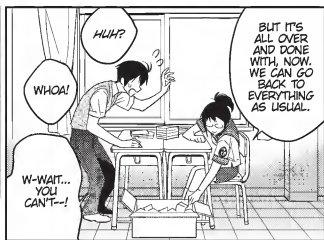
OH,
BY THE
WAY.















SO, HE
NEVER
FELT A
THING?

MAKES
ME
WONDER.

DOES HE
EVEN
HAVE
FEELINGS?



IT
SEEMS...

I FIND
MYSELF
BACK
HERE
AGAIN.





HE'S SUPER HOT, BUT HE'S ALSO A TOTAL WOMANIZER. HE HAS A NEW GIRLFRIEND PRACTICALLY EVERY WEEK!



AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT RUMORS SAY.





DID I
JUST
GET
SPOTTED
?

WHOA--!
HEEEY!



OUCH!

THAT'S
GOT TO
HURT.



I THINK
I PITY
THE
POOR
GUY.

GOSH.



PERSONALLY,
I WOULD
TOTALLY LOVE
TO HAVE
ALL OF YOU
JOIN UP!

I AM,
AS YOU MAY
HAVE JUST
NOTICED, A
COMPLETELY
FREE MAN
RIGHT NOW.



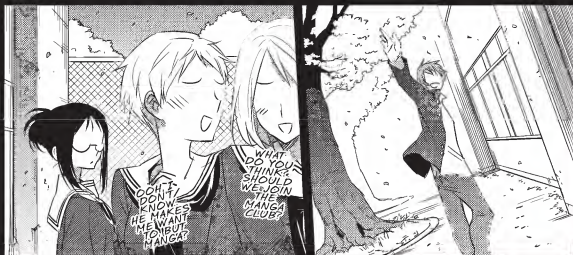
I'M IN THE
MANGA CLUB,
BY THE WAY.
IF YOU'RE
CURIOUS,
YOU SHOULD
TOTALLY COME
AND CHECK
IT OUT.

HELLO
THERE,
LOVELY
LADIES.

WELCOME
TO HIGH
SCHOOL..

SQUEE!

SQUEE!



WITHOUT
BEING
GIVEN A
CHANCE TO
EXPLAIN
HIMSELF.

ABUSED,
SLAPPED,
AND THEN
DUMPED.

IN-
SULTED
...

DO
THOSE
SHARP
EYES
OF
HIS...

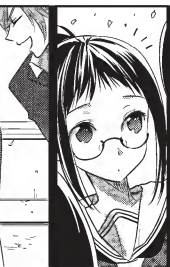
EVER SHOW
SOME
GLIMMER
OF HUMAN
EMOTION?

MAYBE.

IF
SO...

I THINK
I'D
LIKE TO
SEE IT.

EASY,
LADIES! NO
PUSHING!
EVERYONE
WAIT YOUR
TURN IN
LINE.

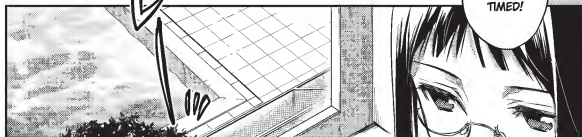


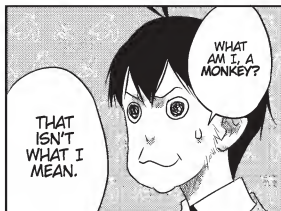






OKAY,
THE NEXT
ONES
WILL BE
TIMED!



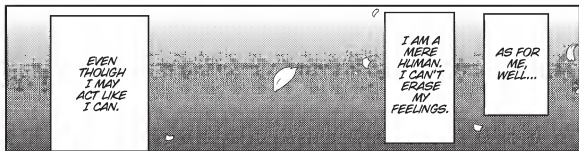
















HMP?
ARE YOU
OUTSIDE
?

YEAH.
I RAN
OUT OF
SHAMPOO.

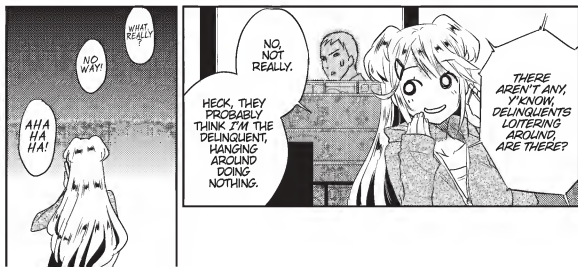
SO I HAD
TO MAKE AN
EMERGENCY
RUN TO THE
MINI MART.



REALLY?
ARE YOU
SURE
THAT'S
SAFE?

BUT I
KNEW
YOU'D BE
CALLING...

SO I'VE
BEEN
HANGING
OUT IN THE
PARKING
LOT,
WAITING.



WHAT
REALLY
?

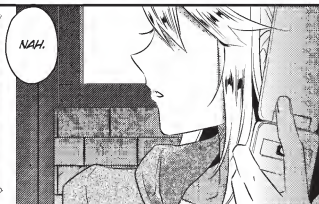
NO
WAY!

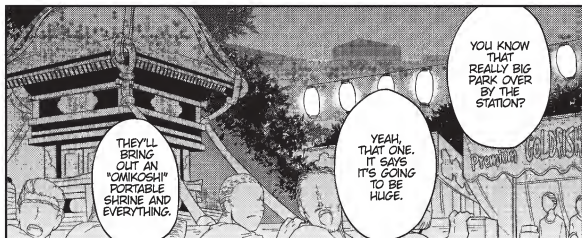
AHA
HA
HA!

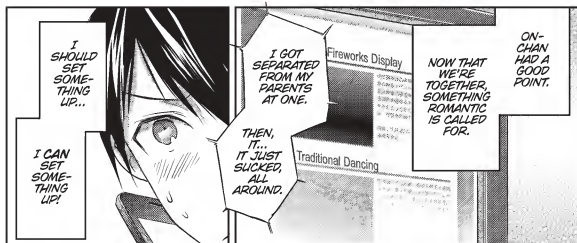
NO,
NOT
REALLY.

HECK, THEY
PROBABLY
THINK I'M THE
DELINQUENT,
HANGING
AROUND
DOING
NOTHING.

THERE
AREN'T ANY,
Y'KNOW,
DELINQUENTS
LOITERING
AROUND,
ARE THERE?





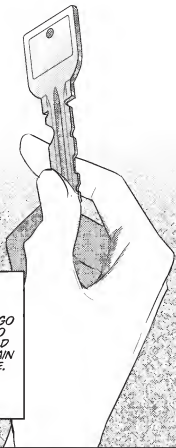




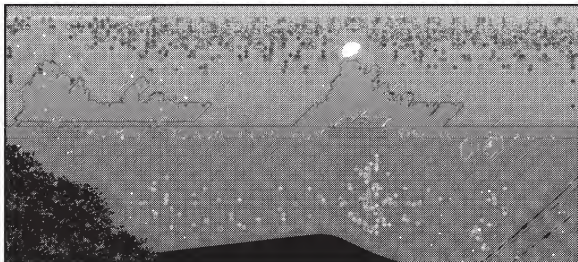


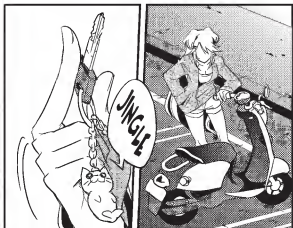
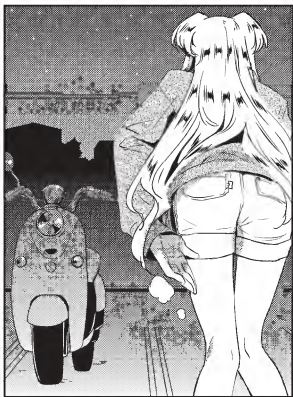
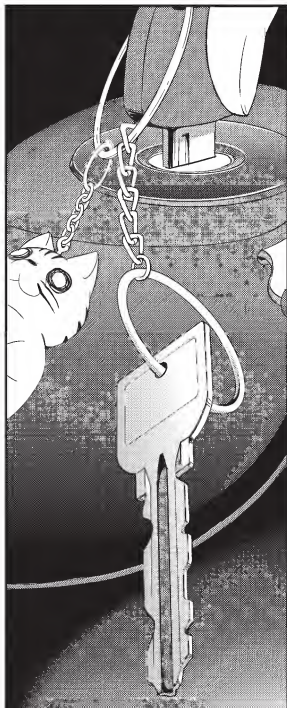
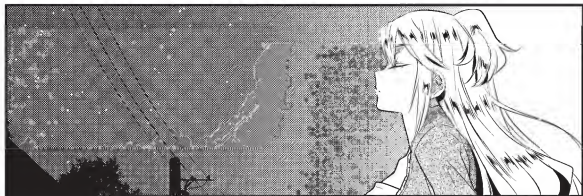


DON'T
WORRY,
THOUGH.



I WILL GO
OUT TO
THE OLD
MOUNTAIN
HOUSE.





To be continued...

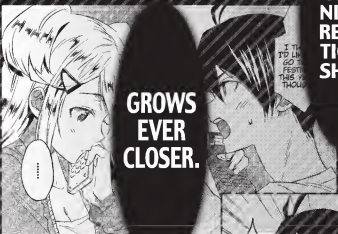


THOUGH
IT HAD
ITS
TWISTS
AND
TURNS...



HOTAKA
AND
NIKI'S
RELATIONSHIP...

SO I'M
GLAD
I DID.



GROWS
EVER
CLOSER.

O-OH.
M-ME
TOO.



A
SUMMER
FESTIVAL?
WHERE?!

LOOKS LIKE
THEY'RE
HAVING
ONE AGAIN
THIS YEAR.

YEAH, IT'S
FOR A
SUMMER
FESTIVAL.

第
回

106



**WHAT
AWAITS
THE
NEW
COUPLE
AT THEIR
VERY
FIRST
FESTIVAL
DATE?**

エバークリーン [4]
EVER GREEN

COMING SOON!



Extra-Large!
Seal-cat Plushie
&
Miku the
HUNTER



☆ SPECIAL THANKS ☆

Yuyuko Takemiya-sensei
Supervising Editor Takajima-sama
Keiko Seki-sama
The Editors of Dengeki Daioh

☆
Shin-sama, mockoss-sama
Soft Haikuo-sama
(Keikei-sama, Kokki Kawai-sama,
Aotonbo-sama)
Friends & Family
& our wonderful readers!



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

 evergreen
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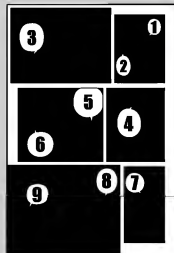
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from **right to left**, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



HOT AND COLD. SUN AND RAIN.

Hotaka is at his wits' end. Suddenly, improbably, he is befriended by Awaya Niki—the smoking hot queen of the swim team. But just as abruptly, she decides to drop out of his life without a warning. Though confounded and frustrated at first, Hotaka has resolved, by hook or by crook, to get an explanation on why Niki is avoiding him. But how is he to do that when she doesn't answer his texts or his invitations to meet up and talk?



Rated: TEEN

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